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## PROBATION IN SWEDEN

handled and where the record may be found. This covers the Funds to Parents Department as well as the Complaint and Police Department.

When a complaint is made to the Juvenile Court, it denotes a serious situation in some one's opinion. When a child is put on probation, it is important that the officer should establish friendly relationship with the home as soon as possible. Because of these facts, it is essential that the initial visits both on complaint and probation cases be made without delay. The officers are, therefore, given two days from the time they receive a complaint or a new probation case to make the first report. The frequency of subsequent visits is left to the judgment of the officer under the advice of the head of the department, but all cases must be visited at least once a month and every visit must be reported. Besides the reports on visits, a face card called "Environment and Family History Blank" is filled. This shows the facts in regard to each family which are not subject to frequent change.

If the supervision of the Assistant Probation Officers is to be made of any value, it is important to work out a satisfactory system of reporting and to enforce it.

All that has been referred to thus far has had to do with the detail of organization and reporting. Matters of policy are determined by the judge of the Juvenile Court, Merritt W. Pinckney. To him is due the credit for two great steps in advance in the last six months. First, the establishment of the branch court for the hearing of the cases of delinquent girls before a woman judge, with a woman stenographer and women officers, and second, the amendments to the "Funds to Parents Act," which were passed by the last legislature and which have made that act definite, constructive and workable. So long as the policy of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois, is determined by Judge Merritt W. Pinckney and his assistant, Miss Mary M. Bartelme, that policy will be determined by the qualities of constructive justice and far-sighted mercy which are possessed by both.

JOEL D. HUNTER, Chief Probation Officer, Cook Co., Ill., Chicago.

**Probation in Sweden.**—The Protection Society ("Skyddsvärnet" in Swedish) was formed in Stockholm in 1910, for the purpose of reclaiming and reforming persons released under suspended sentence. The society, which came into being through the efforts of Judge Harald Salomon, who had made a personal investigation of the probation system in the United States, is granted a subvention from both the state and the city, and is under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Sweden. The society publishes a periodical, and one of the articles appearing in this publication has recently been translated by Judge Salomon into English and put in pamphlet form. After setting forth some of the principles for which the society stands, Judge Salomon gives the following account of its methods of operation:

"In Swedish legislation this need has to a certain degree been expressed. In the law concerning the education of dependent and delinquent children dated June 13th, 1902, for instance, there are stipulations concerning the appointment of 'kretsombud,' a sort of probation officer, assistance thus being requested of zealous men and women for the fight against juvenile criminality. Furthermore, in the Act re Conditional Release of June 22nd, 1906, there is a stipulation that in the place of a sheriff's officer, magistrate, or public prosecutor, some other suitable person may instead be appointed as supervisor of a prisoner re-

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leased from a penal institution, this person having to superintend the conduct of the released prisoner as circumstances demand, and to attempt to encourage anything that may lead to the man's being reclaimed. In this case the assistance of the private citizen is requested in the important work of reclaiming released prisoners.

"On the other hand, here in Sweden we possess no special stipulations re probation as regards those whose sentences are suspended. This defect, as also the need of an investigation of the personal circumstances of the offender previous to being brought before the court for sentence, has received the attention of private individuals, and when the Protection Society (Skyddsvärnet) was formed in 1910, it included in its programme investigation of the cases for suspended sentences and the supervision of those liberated under such sentence, and, so far as it has been possible, the Society has tried to organize work in these departments and interest persons in various ranks of life. In this sphere of action in combating criminality the assistance of private individuals has been appealed to, and at present their response has led to the formation of a small group of volunteers, who are willing, without any pecuniary reward, to assist the Protection Society in carrying out the work in question.

"The work of investigation undertaken by the Society has as yet chiefly concerned such offenders under arrest who have voluntarily pleaded guilty, and by law can be the receivers of suspended sentence, e. g., as a rule, first offenders who are not guilty of more desperate crimes.<sup>1</sup> The work is mostly carried on in the following manner: The examination by the police being at an end and the police report ready for delivery to the court before which the prisoner is to be brought, information thereof is given to the Governor of the Jail; at the same time a copy of the report being forwarded to me. The Governor of the Jail then sends to the arrested person in the cell two copies of a form set up by the Protection Society, with the intimation that the person under arrest is to fill up and sign both copies.<sup>2</sup> In this form there are queries respecting the circumstances under which he has been living and working, and opportunity given for a detailed account of his person and family, &c., &c. Furthermore, he is encouraged to state the reason for and circumstances concerning the offense, and to give the name, address, and if possible the telephone call number of those persons who know most concerning his life and circumstances, and to note down what he may have to add with regard to his life's history and family relations. The form closes with a declaration on the part of the culprit that he is willing, should suspended sentence result, to place himself under the friendly supervision of the Protection Society for the time being until other commands reach him, and to follow the directions of the Society which may be given with a view to his probation. When these forms are filled up, I interview the culprit at the Jail, going through the forms and filling in matter if necessary. At the close of this interview a card is handed the prisoner, where among other things it is urged that should his sentence be suspended he should call on me some Thursday at the office of the Protection Society in order to consult with me respecting his prospects. Should he have a home in Stockholm, I call there in order to obtain a personal knowledge of the surroundings in which he has

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<sup>1</sup>Applies only to such offenders as come before the criminal courts, e. g., those of 15 years and upwards.

<sup>2</sup>One is for the Court, the other is kept at the office of the Society.

## RULES FOR PAROLE IN MAINE

lived. The information afforded me in the home is later on controlled by other statements given by his employer, landlord, &c., &c., and, when it is a question of soldiers, by their superior officer, while as regards juvenile offenders, their schoolmaster, or teachers of religion are appealed to. Should the home be in the country, by wiring or by telephoning to the Rector of the parish, the Bailiff, or other reliable person, I try to obtain the necessary information to the best of my ability. The result of my investigation is then recorded in writing and the report placed at the disposal of the court.

"The probation work has consisted in my seeing those under suspended sentences that choose to attend on Thursdays at the office of the Society, their relations, or other persons interested in the work, besides which, either I myself or some representative of the Society duly appointed as supervisor, visit the home of those under sentence. Those calling on me at the office receive probation cards, containing among other matter the name and address of the person appointed as their superior, as also certain 'Rules and Regulations' which they are advised to observe."

The pamphlet also contains some very interesting case histories, a specimen report of an investigation made concerning a defendant, and copies of certain forms used in the work.

A. W. T.

### **Rules of the Advisory Board in the Matter of Paroles in Maine.—**

1. The board will meet monthly at the Maine State Prison at Thomaston for the purpose of considering applications for paroles and at such other times and places as may be deemed necessary. Unless otherwise arranged the meetings at the State Prison will be held on the first Thursday of the month.

2. At each monthly meeting the board will consider the applications for parole of all prisoners whose minimum terms expire during the month following that in which the meeting is held.

3. At all meetings, the board will reconsider the applications of all prisoners except those that were considered at one of the two preceding meetings.

4. The application for parole must be made by the prisoner himself. Under the law the board is prohibited from considering any other form of application or petition. Parole application blanks will be furnished by the warden and such prisoners as may be unable to prepare their applications will be given necessary assistance.

5. In considering the application for parole of a prisoner, the board will take into account the prison conduct of the applicant, his criminal record, and also his habits and methods of life before conviction; his domestic relations, his prospects of employment, and his ability and apparent desire to lead a correct life and maintain himself by honest labor, if paroled.

6. Any prisoner who fails to comply with the terms of his parole will, if apprehended, be returned to the prison to serve the balance of his maximum term. If he cannot be found at once, he will be declared delinquent, and whenever apprehended, be thereafter imprisoned in said prison for a period equal to the unexpired maximum term of his sentence at the time such delinquency is declared, unless sooner paroled or discharged by the board.

7. Each application will be considered in the order in which it is received, except in extraordinary cases when the board may order that an exception be made to the rule. Application for parole from those serving indeterminate